Choose your tree with care

By SHIRLEY W. WALTON
Extension Agent
Christmas Tree Selection And Care

This is part one of a two-part article on Christmas tree selection and care.

Christmas is quickly approaching and with it comes the tradition of buying a Christmas tree for the home or office.

During these inflationary times, it is tempting to yield to the economy and convenience of a "no fuss" and "no muss" artificial tree, but many people prefer to use only real trees as this treasured symbol of Christmas. Unlike the artificials made of aluminum and plastic, each natural tree has a character of its own as reflectd by its species, size, form and fragrance.

Most Christmas trees are grown on plantations or tree farms established specifically for holiday trade. These farms and plantations are typically located on land that has little economic potential. Growing Christmas trees constitutes a wise use of the land because this provides cover for wildlife, enhances rural beauty, bolsters the local economy and replenishes the air with oxygen.

Choosing a Christmas tree is usually a matter of personal preference, but the following factors should be considered--needle retention, color and fragrance, fullness and shape, ability of branches to support ornaments and the degree of fire resistance. These qualities vary somewhat by species, but popular species like Douglas and Balsam fir, Austrian, Red and Scotch white pine and White, Norway and Blue spruce are fine Christmas trees when fresh. Buyers basically have the option of cutting or digging their tree at a cooperating Christmas tree growers farm or plantation. Or they may pick up a cut or potted tree at a local shopping center or roadside stand. Chosing the family tree at a plantation can be an enjoyable outing, plus the buyer is insured of a fresh tree. Although additional effort and care is needed to dig a tree and the ultimate transplant may not be a success, replanting the family tree can be a rewarding and economical way of landscaping the yard.

A tree 5 feet 4 inches to 6 feet 6 inches high should have a root ball of 2 feet 4 inches to 3 feet 4 inches in diameter.

Next week I shall share more information with you concerning the selection and care of Christmas trees.

If you have a homemaking question or problem, you may call the Appomattox County Extension Office at 352-8244 or you may write P. O. Box 488, Appomattox, Va. 24522.

Have a good week!

RECIPE OF THE WEEK
Sweet Potatoes in Apricot Sauce

3 lbs. sweet potatoes
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 ½ tbls. cornstarch
¼ tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 cup apricot nectar
½ cup hot water
2 tsps. grated orange rind
2 tbls. butter or margarine
½ cup chopped pecans

Boil sweet potatoes in salt water until done. Drain, cool, and peel. Cut into half length wise. Place potatoes in a 2 quart shallow casserole.

In a sauce pan combine sugar, cornstarch, salt, and cinnamon. Add apricot nectar, water and orange rind, bring to a full boil; remove from heat, and stir in butter and pecans. Pour sauce over potatoes so that all are glazed. Bake uncovered at 350°F. for 25 minutes or until the sauce is bubbly. Yield: 8-10 servings.

Many thanks to Glenna Hix for sharing this delicious, nutritious holiday dish with us.

--Happiness is 4-H--

By FRANK H. SWEET
Extension Agent

4-H Share-the-Fun programs have been held over the past two weeks with many young people taking part. The final Share-the-Fun Show will be held this Saturday, Dec. 6, at 7:00 p.m. at Appomattox County High School. Included in the show will be vocal acts, dance acts, instrumentals, and dramatic or novelty acts. Each 4-H member who participates in the show will receive special awards. American Federal Savings and Loan Association provides awards for 4-H Share-the-Fun in Appomattox. Make your plans to attend this fun-filled variety show, Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7:00 P.M. at ACHS.

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David Caldwell and Lisa Moore, who will return from National 4-H Congress in Chicago tomorrow (Friday), have been selected as alternates for $1,000 scholarships at the National level. David was named second alternate in the area of Public Speaking and Lisa was named as fourth alternate in the area of Achievement. These awards are especially noteworthy when you consider that over 50 state winning 4-H'ers across the United States were competing for these National Scholarships. David, Lisa and Susan Parris, who also participated in National 4-H Congress, are available, as their schedule permits, to present programs on National 4-H Congress.

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Members of the 1980 4-H Soils Judging Teams were recognized as last week's Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District Awards Banquet. Special ribbons were awarded to: Glen McClenny, Dale Glover, Kenneth McClenny, Bob Poole and Howard Anderson. Also recognized, but unable to attend were Allen Smith and Blair Smith. Glen and Dale will represent Virginia at a National 4-H Soils Judging program in Oklahoma in the spring of 1981.

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We now have a supply of the new 4-H Domestic Rabbit Guide and Record which has recently been published. This booklet is much more complete than the old 4-H Rabbit Project. Stop by or give us a call if you'd like one.

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A reminder for Senior 4-H'ers about Achievement Records: It is time to get started. Forms and instructional material are available from the Extension Office. Several workshops will be scheduled during the Christmas holiday season.

4-H Club News

By SUSAN CARNEFIX

Mrs. Humphries 5th Grade 4-H Club met on November 13, 1980. The president, Rhonda Ranson, called the meeting to order. Susan Carnefix led us in the 4-H Pledge and Tracy Boone led us in the Pledge to the American Flag. The recreation leaders, Kathy White and Beth Marston, led us in some songs and games. Our secretary, Kim Fuller, read the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Sweet gave us back our last year's project books. Our vice president, Karen Gilliam, told us about this month's program. Mr. Sweet showed us some slides.

Rhonda then adjourned the meeting.

4-H Club News

By SYDNI JACKSON

Mrs. Coleman's 4-H Club met on November 13, 1980. Teresa Cousin led us in the American flag pledge and Robert Jamerson led us in the 4-H pledge. Laura Carter then led us in the game Tug Up. We saw a film strip as our program.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Our officers for this year are: president--Cheyl Jones; vice president--Audra Doss; secretary Terri Hancock; reporter Sydni Jackson; and recreation leader Laura Carter.

New blue mold treatment is legal

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

A new label makes it legal to use Ridomil in the tobacco planthed to control blue-mold. We will be recommending three ounces of this fungicide applied at seeding time and raked into the soil.

Ridomil will be available in quart and gallon sizes. More details on the use of this new fungicide will be coming later.

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It's too late to treat cattle for grubs, but you can use Dursban 44 pour-on. Read directions carefully for frequency of application and delay before slaughter.

One change in the use of Dursban 44 has just come out and may not be on the label that you purchase. Do not treat bulls over 8 months of age of any breed.

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Need a beef bull--The Virginia Breeders All-Breed Performance Tested Bull Sale is at Staunton December 6.

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If you have dairy or beef heifers to carry through the winter, they should be wormed now.

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Looks like we will be able to vaccinate heifers against brucellosis that are eight to twelve months of age in a few months. This new technology comes about through the use of a smaller dosage introduced at an advanced age producing the same immunity.

Your veterinarian will make you aware of the new procedure as it becomes operational.

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If you have beef or holstein steers that will be marketed next spring, they should get an implant. It will result in added weight.

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Mildew is sometimes a problem on asbestos and wood siding homes. Mildew inhibitors for paint may be found in paint supply stores, and usually come in a tube like toothpaste. Follow directions in using.

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If you have grain stored in metal bins, better stay on top of the temperature change. This means cooling the grain to prevent moisture condensation.

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Tractors vary widely in fuel efficiency--ranges as great as 10 to 15% can be realized.

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Hot water is one of the highest users of energy in the home. Have you insulated your hot water pipes?

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The Virginia Tech soil testing lab is currently testing about 800 samples daily. There is no backlog. Now is a good time to get your samples in--a lot of farmers are using the soil testing facilities this year. Higher fertilizer and lime prices are the reason.

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Two new flue-cured varieties will be available for planting in 1981.

They are: Coker 51 and Clemson PD4. Always use caution with new varieties. It is advisable to try new varieties on a limited acreage so you can evaluate it against a known variety.

Clemson PD4 was the highest yielding variety at the Southern Piedmont Research Station with 3392 pounds per acre in 1980.

Hamlet led us in the 4-H Pledge. Mr. Sweet returned our projects and ribbons from last yar. He also told us about a new photography group that is being organized the topic for the month was "Hunting".

4-H Club News

By LISA HARRISON

On November 25, 1980, A.M.S. 7th grade 4-H Club held its regular monthly meeting. Brett Marston called the meeting to order. James Cash led us in the American Pledge, and Steve

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Don't Forget CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
This Sat., Dec. 6
3:00 — 5:00 P.M.
SUPERIOR FLORIST & GREENHOUSES
GRAND PRIZE: Pick Up A Cut Flower Arrangement Each Week For One Year.
•Wreaths & Centerpieces •Cemetery Wreaths •Ornaments •Silk/Dried Arrangements •Williamsburg Candles
•Door Decorations •Poinsetteas •Collectible Dolls •Refreshments •Door Prizes
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•20% Off Shrubs & Fruit Trees
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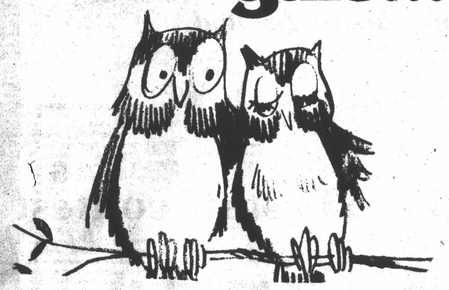
Wise guys and gals...

Have Their Social Security Checks Deposited Directly!
In this day and age, anywhere you can save yourself time, and in effect money, is so important! If you give a hoot, you'll have your monthly check deposited directly into your account, where it will stay safe and sound until you decide to use it! See us!
The Farmers National Bank
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FDIC Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Downtown and Triangle Plaza Branch
Appomattox, Virginia

Wilbun's SUPERMARKET

FAMILY PACK... Chicken 79¢ lb.
3-Breast 3-Thighs 3-Drumsticks

BEEF SIRLOIN Steak lb. $2.29

T-BONE or PORTERHOUSE Steaks lb. $2.99
GWALTNEY Old Town Bacon 1-lb. PKG. $1.19
OLD SMITHFIELD Ham Sausage 12oz. PKG. 89¢
GWALTNEY BIG "8" Meat Franks 1-lb. PKG. $1.19

3 lb. BAG YELLOW Onions 49¢
LARGE HEAD ICEBERG Lettuce 49¢
3 lb. BAG WINESAP Apples 59¢
64oz. JAR KRAFT Orange Juice $1.29
12oz. PKG. 16 Slices ECON AMERICAN Cheese $1.29
2 lb. BOX BANQUET FRIED Chicken (LIMIT 2, PLEASE) $1.99
*30¢ OFF REG. PRICE ON TONY'S PIZZA! FREE SAMPLES FRI. and SAT. !!!

Prices Good Dec. 1st thru 6th, 1980 QUANTITY RIGHTS are RESERVED!

MILLER Beer 8 7oz. Bots $1.59

SEALTEST ICE CREAM SANDWICHES BOX OF 6 99¢

OVEN GOLD Hot Dog or Hamburger Rolls 2 PKGS. for 99¢

BUSH'S Beans Great Northern, Pinto, Red Kidney, Navy or Mexican Style 3 15oz. PKGS. $1.

JUICY... GRAPE FRUIT or oranges 5-lb. BAG $1.19

PepsiCola OR MT. DEW 8 16oz. Bots. (Plus dep.) $1.29
GILL'S "Hotel Special" COFFEE 1-lb. Bag $2.39
NABISCO Premium Crackers 1-lb. Box 79¢
SHOWBOAT (With Cheese) Spaghetti 3 14oz. CANS 89¢
BUMBLE BEE Pink Salmon 15.5oz. CAN $1.89
SHOWBOAT Pork and Beans 3 14.5oz. CANS $1.
MARTHA WHITE Corn Muffin MIX 4 7.5oz. Boxes $1.
M & M (Plain or Peanut) CANDY 1-lb. Bag $1.99
MARTHA WHITE SPUD Flakes 5 Pkgs. $1.